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Editorial

It's quite interesting to look back a few years when I started Pirate Connection. At the time being there was a big 'vacuum' on the market and I thought to myself: "somebody has to do something about this!". But nothing happened and it wasn't until I got one of many letters from Michael Klosinski in Germany, that I finally realised that I had to start the whole thing up myself. "Hey Stefan, you really should start a new magazine, if anyone, you can do it!" wrote Michael. That was the triggering point for me, so in fact it was thanks to Michael that it all started. Already from the very beginning my idea was: bring a mag that the listeners and operators want and this is achieved by letting as many people as possible to get involved in the mag. Other magazines write their own stuff, but we let you as readers take an active role of the desk-work. Just have a look at our last issue which had 11 different writers! Although the Free Radio hobby is a rather small one, we've had great success and will continue to move our forces forward in the process of improving the variety of contents and the layout of the mag. That's why we are constantly looking for new writers and especially on the US market, where we are totally new (although we've had the US coverage already since the start!). The next step is to start printing Pirate Connection in offset (hopefully as from next issue), recruiting even more writers and start an offensive advert campaign in both Europe and the US. Join us, you too! Stefan

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Deadline PC #17

Friday January 17th, 1997.

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EURO PIRATE SCENE

The European pirate scene certainly have become more interesting the last couple of months. 76 metres keeps it strong position with more and more stations joining the band. Not only for night-time transmissions, but also for Sunday morning broadcasts and QSOs, although 48 metres is superior at this time of the day. More good news is that 48 metres has regained activities and the band is now crammed with stations each Sunday. Just have a look in the SRS News loglist for each Saturday and Sunday and you will be impressed of the number of stations logged. Keep up your outstanding work Jonny! And of course, we must not forget all the many loggers who support him with logs, news and other information, which is a very valuable source for this Euro Pirate Scene round-up.

Radio ABC/Denmark has started operating on shortwave 7570 kHz with a 120 kW outlet! It's one of the most successful commercial stations in Denmark with a daily listening rating of 150 000. The manager behind ABC is Stig-Harvig Nielsen, a fame in the Free Radio world, who operated the popular Radio Viking in the 70's. Other stations he operated were Radio Free Sunday, Radio King Kong, World Music Radio and Quality AM. The launch of the shortwave service was on Sunday June 23rd and it was a successful one with a tremendous signal! The transmitter is situated in Lithuania (Bolshakovo) and the huge power facilitates reception of the station with simpler receivers such as transistor radios. The schedule is 8-12 UTC each Sunday and the present hosts are Stig-Harvig Nielsen, Claus Nielsen (relatives by any chance?) and Paul Dane. More information on all this can be found on ABC's Web-page at <http://www.radioabc.dk> (go there - it's a nice site!). There's also an excellent story in the latest issue of FRS Goes DX (see "On the Market"). Hopefully there will also be a story of ABC in the next issue of PC. In this context, I would also like to mention a report in one of ABC's recent program, where it was said that the ITU (which I guess is some

kind of international authority for supervision of radio bands, among other things) wanted to move all legal stations that are currently operating outside the ordinary bands, and this would include stations on 76 and 48 metres. 43 countries have already approved the proposal and this could imply a more intensive hunt for pirate operators in their goal to clear the "off-band" broadcasting stations.
AW FRS SPZ SRS

The charming Captain Eddy and his **Radio Airplane** was heard once again over Radio Pandora's outlet 6290 kHz on October 20th. An old programme was probably aired, since the Wellsville address was announced! As you may have heard, this maildrop has been replaced by Box 1, Belfast, NY 14711, USA. SRS

Delta Radio from UK are on the air every 1st Sunday of the month in remembrance of the recent decease of Norman Nelson (Radio East Coast Commercial). The host is Pete Edwards who offer nice QSL-cards if you write to the Rueil Cedex maildrop in France. SRS

Easy International Radio with "classic rock hits from the past 35 years" have been noted quite frequently of late on 6210 kHz. Address for any reports is Box 130, Rueil Cedex in France. SRS

Radio Fan Man was a station heard on September 22nd over the facilities of Radio Pandora on 6280 kHz. The station, originating from Germany, certainly brings some good news to all fans of reggae music, because the format is 100% rasta and reggae music. As far as I can remember, there hasn't been such a station around for nearly 10 years, at the times when Radio Rastafari and Radio Batida were active! And even more remarkable - the station is operated by a female DJ calling herself Mary Jane! We certainly need more women in this weird hobby, so this is a good sign... Wuppertal drop. LAY

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The FOX from USA tried their luck in Europe by a relay broadcast on September 29th. The frequency was 6290 kHz. The FOX crew are famous for their brilliant parodies and also are behind weird stations such as **Voice of Helium** and **The Highway to God!!** The signal strength was very good in whole Europe and any of the following addresses may be used: Box 109, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214, USA, Box 293, Merlin, Ontario N0P 1W0, Canada and Box 220342, 42373 Wuppertal, Germany, all well-known drops for pirate stations. SRS

Free Radio Mercer (?) was a new acquaintance on September 27th on 3940 kHz, who celebrated their 6th year anniversary! This can easily be explained, because it was told they were normally on FM and tried out shortwave for the very first time. No address known for this one. SRS

Free Radio Service Holland celebrated their 16th birthday on the weekend October 19th-20th. The show started already early on Saturday evening on the 76 metre outlet 3945 kHz and continued through the night until Sunday morning! Then the show continued on 6275 kHz!! One of the features were listeners' personal memories sent in on tapes. 6955 kHz was also a planned as a target for the night broadcast, but nothing was reported so I guess they concentrated on 76 metres only. Address for FRSH is Box 2727, 6049 ZG Herten, The Netherlands or you can contact either **Peter Verbruggen** or **Joop ter Zee** at peter.verbruggen@tip.nl and joop.ter.zee@tip.nl respectively. A new FRSH booklet is available and so is also a new multi-coloured A5 sticker! All is yours for 3 IRCs or 3 USD. SRS

Radio Jemima is the name of a New Zealand relay station heard over **Jolly Roger Radio** the last weekend in September. Address for the station is Box 3103, Napier, New Zealand. SRS

Radio Jokebox is a new station heard over the SWRS/IRRS facility, 3955 kHz, on Friday October 4th. A very well-produced programme was heard with some very entertaining comedy in the German language. It was all recorded in the studios of a local commercial station in Germany, according to our

reports. QSLs are available for 3 USD at the Wuppertal drop. SRS

The newest victim in the series of all those recent spoofs is **Radio Joystick**. Alias **Charlie Prince** played German schlagers and 50's music instead of the usual stuff in terms of disco, funk and soul! Reported on 6282 kHz October 20th. SRS

Radio Kom Op De Band was a funny spoof which was heard a couple of weekends after the Merchweiler camp (please read the Merchweiler feature and you'll understand the whole thing!). I abstain from revealing my deep suspicions of the man behind...! SPZ SRS

Radio Metropolis is probably a new German who popped up on 6252 kHz on October 20th. The station was heard with a weak signal in Germany and was reported for just a few minutes with techno music before close-down at 8.07 UTC. SRS

Radio Mystery Ghost Planet is the complex name of a new station that recently could be heard on 7281 kHz. **Captain Ghost** promised to answer all reception reports to the Wuppertal maildrop. SRS

Radio MOZ (Musik Ohne Zensur) - meaning "music without any censorship" - was heard on 6295 kHz October 6th announcing the SRS maildrop address. The format is "strange" indie music. SRS

Radio Natalie is a new station from Tallinn in Estonia!! The PRRS service run by IMR relayed the station on October 5th in the 76 metre band. The address is thought to be Box 3260, EESTI-090 Tallinn, Estonia. SRS

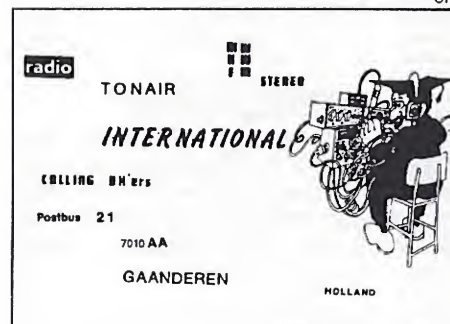
Radio Pamela's Steve Most and his wife recently paid a visit to the QTH of **Radio Torenvalk** in Holland. Unfortunately, both Steve and his wife became sick during the boat trip, but luckily Steve was strong enough to be able to make a joint broadcast with op. Hans on Saturday evening September 21st (3940 kHz). A few promo jingles were also recorded for **Pirate Connection** which will soon be heard over the Free Radio stations. Address: Box 94, 7038 ZH Zeddam, The Netherlands. SPZ

Southern Music Radio have made a serious of shows that will be delayed during the winter. The next programme is planned for December 14th at 19-20 UTC and will go out over **WRMI** - **Radio Miami International** on 9955 kHz. Check out for this exotic New Zealandish station with some interesting domestic music! Also check out the outlet on other times, since **WMRI** relay many other stations as well. For more details on **WRMI**, write to Jeff White at 71163.1735@compuserve.com. SRS

Starshine Radio - one of the many German pirates - broadcast occasionally on the 76 metre band with some entertaining programming. On Saturday August 31st, the time had come once again for this peculiar station, who was heard on 3938 kHz with a competition, a T-shirt offer and the usual rambling talks, including a debate about offshore with the special guest "Mr. May Day"! Cool, Klim Hawk! SRS

Swedish Report Service arrange a 'pop station poll' every year where you can vote for your favourite pirate stations in Europe, the US and the rest of the world. Write to srs@srs.pp.se or SRS, Östra Porten 29, 442 54 Ytterby, Sweden for more details! SRS

Radio Tonair is one of the latest additions to the 76 metre band. Testing with only with usual 100 mW (!!) of power in a QSO with Onbekend (from Ruurlo, Holland), Tonair was heard on Sunday morning October 20th with a very good signal in central Europe. We believe you must have some huge antennas erected at your QTH, Jos! Anyway, congrats! SRS



Radio Torenvalk made what you probably can call a weird transmission. The operators of **Radio Dr. Tim** (plus wife and little child) and **Radio Perfekt** were on a visit in Hans' studio and a really crazy show, lasting over 4 hours, were heard. The format was a mixture of country, polka and rock music! In a recent phone call with Hans, he commented: "Every time I go on air, I try to put out a totally new programme format. After the show, we all agreed this was something really different - it wasn't even a programme!". It's really worth sending Torenvalk a report - apart from a QSL you'll also receive a special comic-slip. Each slip is unique with some ironic comment on operator Hans himself or the mysterious Torenvalk technician "Doktor Rör" (Dr. Tube). More news is that Hans is currently working on a mobile transmission set-up, but the whole project had a great set-back recently when the "inverter" (transformer of low voltage to high voltage) blew up. Hans is currently trying to get a new one from England. SPZ

Radio Waves International will be celebrating their 13th birthday during November and invite everyone to join them. A special QSL-card will also be available. Contact them at waves@imaginet.fr or Box 130, 92504 Ruell Cedex in France. SRS

Zwarte Panter was the tentative name of a station Lars reports as being heard on September 22nd on 6266 kHz. The broadcast mainly consisted of non-stop disco music and announcements in Dutch (does this sound familiar to you?!). My guess is that this must be the same station as the one operating on mediumwave. The address should be Box 1104, 8001 BC Zwolle, The Netherlands. LAY SRS

RADIO PANDORA ON SHORTWAVE

Contributors and sources

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LAY - Lars Andersson, Sweden
RB - Rainer Brandt, Germany
SPZ - Stefan Printz, Sweden
SRS - SRS News #37-43 1996

SRS NEWS #43

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Welcome to SRS News. This is not Jonny writing this, but Stefan. I have received a lot of complaints about the extensive, 15-20 pages, of log lists in each issue and I have taken impression of your comments. What most people would like is a comprehensive survey on let's say 4-5 pages, containing the most interesting logs of the past two months. We are now looking for someone who would like to do this job, or two persons if we split the logs up into one US part and one Euro part. Please send in a letter to any of our headquarter addresses and let us know if you are interested in this. Meanwhile, we publish the latest issue of SRS News #43. For further info on this excellent bulletin, see "On the Market".

Freq.	Station	Time(UTC)	SGEWIA	Comments
October 18th, 1996 (Friday)				
6955L	Friday Radio	22.24-23.01	00000?	E, well, it's FRIDAY!
October 19th, 1996 (Saturday)				
3920	R.Black Arrow	17.30-17.34*	040000	D, QSO, pops
3920	R.Oscar	17.34-17.35*	030000	D, QSO, bad mode
3922	R.Oscar	17.41-	030000	D, QSO again
3925	Driland	23.05-	100000	?, mx
3926	R.Meteor ?	18.28-19.48	000020	G, Mx & px
3945	FRS Holland	17.29-00.00	330020	E,G, 16th birthday
6238	J.R.R.?	16.07-	000020	E, Mx, jingles
6274.8	FRS Holland	17.52-20.00	030030	E,G, 16th birthday
6290	unid	11.45-	000040	?, mx non-stop
6300	R. Horizon ?	11.48-13.42	030030	D, Hits, pop
6400	R.Free London	18.06-	000030	E, Mx & px
6955	Radio Free Speech	18.10-18.58	000004	E, Election Special #2
6956U	Up Against The Wall	18.58-++	00000?	E, QRM from R. Azteca
6958U	Free Hope Experience	19.19-20.05	00000?	E, ?
6959	unid	17.50-18.10	00000?	E, Burns & Allen show
7500	R.Internazionale	15.24-	000040	I, Mx
October 20th, 1996 (Sunday)				
3911.8	R.Meteor	08.58-08.59*	040000	D, QSO, polka music
3913	R.Albatros	09.23-09.46	040000	E,D, pops, QSO
3913	R.Moonlight	08.43-09.24	040000	D, QSO to all, music
3915	R.Onbekend	10.31+10.47	040000	D, QSO to Tonair
3920	R.Black Arrow	09.25-	040000	D, pops
3920	Subterranean Sounds	11.45-	020000	E, IDs, address, music
3922v	R.Driland Int.	08.43-09.15	040000	D,E, pops, QSO
3934	R.Tonair	10.39+10.53	040000	D, QSO to Onbekend
3945	FRS Holland	00.00-06.45	230000	E, 16th birthday
3985	Rock-it R.	14.25*-14.44*	040000	E, Big Bopper songs
3985	IRRS Milano	14.44*-	040000	E, IDs address
3985U	IRRS Milano	14.48*	050000	E, USB IDs, address
6198.9	R.Joystick (fake!?)	11.32-	240000	G, German Schlager
6200	unid	10.19-10.23*	030000	G, last night on 76mB
6200L	International Music R.	09.03-	330000	E, QSO to TBS
6201L	Trans Atlantic R. (TBS)	08.56-09.05	440000	E, QSO to IMR
6201	R.Communication Int'l	10.27	400000	G, QSO
6201.3	Trans Atlantic R. (TBS)	13.31-13.33*	040000	D,E, QSO to Torenvalk
6206.8	R.Caroline (France)	09.00-09.50	020000	E,F, pops
6214v	R.Torenvalk/Dr.Tim/Perf.	09.38-13.28*	240000	E,D,G, 3 DJs in studio
6215	R.Torenvalk	13.33-	040000	D, QSO to TBS, Telstar
6215	R.Telstar 901	13.41-13.43*	020000	G,E, CQ, QSO, phone no.
6220.0	unid, Ozon?	07.20-09.10	120000	E, pop-mx.
6220	KIWI R.	13.54-	020000	E, South Pacific infos
6237.6	Jolly Roger R.	07.30+09.50	230000	E, music

6237.6	KIWI R.	08.08-09.00	320000	E, IDs, pops
6237.6	Laser Hot Hits, tent.	09.30-	020000	E, pops
6243.5	FRS Holland	08.13*-14.18	340000	E,G, 16th birthday
6250.7	R.Nordsee Int.	10.48-10.51*	030000	G,E, IDs, jingles, QSY
6251.7	R.Nordsee Int.	09.00-10.27	330000	G,E, IDs, jingles, loop
6252	Metropolis	08.00-08.07*	200000	G,E, techno, new German!
6270-2	R.Communication Int.	09.00-09.31	230000	G,E, pops
6274.8	FRS Holland	07.14-13.50	230000	E,G, 16th birthday
6280	Radio Zodiac	09.12-10.21	230000	E, ID
6282	R.Joystick (fake!?)	11.11-11.13	030000	E, ID, 50ies mx, QSY
6289	R.Brigitte	08.54-09.19	310000	E,G,D, heavy het QRM
6289.6	R.Airplane	08.09-08.58*	330000	E, jokies, US station,
6289.6	R.MOZ	08.58-10.00*	230000	G,E, rock music
6289.6	R.Pandora	10.01*-	230000	E, IDs, pops
6289.6	R.Airplane	11.42-11.55*	030000	E, on again, sudden off
6290	R. Blue Sky	07.18-07.30	020000	E, ID, classic and
6299v	R.Horizon/Farmers fr.N.	07.14-09.15	440000	D, pops
6306	R.P.A.	13.47-14.20	030000	D, Test, ID, Add
6401.5	R.Free London (RFL)	07.52-15.00	230000	E, pops, DX infos
7303U	R.Europe	10.37-	040000	I, pops
7435L	Trans Atlantic R. (TBS)	09.30+10.48	240000	E, QSO, pops, address
7435L	International Music R.	09.35+10.35	230000	E, QSO, pops
7490.3	R.Pamela	09.06-09.56	330000	E, pops, only 5 watts !
7485U	R.City	10.12-10.50*	100000	E, oldies
7500.5	R.Internazionale	08.17-15.00	240000	E,I, IDs, pops
12256.3	Wrekin' R.International	08.37-09.22	220000	E, pops

Continued from page 11.

ARUTZ 7

Off the coast of Israel, offshore radio is still alive. The recent change of government has meant that to some extent the authorities recognise the legal status of the offshore broadcasters. On Tuesday 9 July, in her first news conference as Communications Minister, Limor Livnat said that as Arutz 7 broadcasts outside Israel's territorial waters, she does not deem the station a pirate. This statement was repeated in more detail during a government debate on 17 July. The Knesset debate was covered by Arutz 7 and transcribed onto their web pages.

ARUTZ 2000

Arutz Sheva was joined on Wednesday 28 August by Arutz 2000. The stations ship King David - the former British lightship LV3, had arrived some months earlier and had been setting up her equipment. The ship is anchored

about 20 miles offshore and has been broadcasting on 102.6 MHz FM - sandwiched between two high powered land based stations - using a Siemens transmitter. Arutz 2000 had been operating for some time as a land-based pirate. Now at sea, their slogan is "Alpayim al hamayim" (alpayim means 2000 in Hebrew, and Hamayim means on the water - 2000 on the water - it sounds better in Hebrew! It is pronounced Al - pie - yim al - ha - my - yim). Test broadcasts started on Wednesday afternoon, 28 August, and continued until Thursday evening at 5pm. They returned to the air on Sunday morning. One has to remember that Arutz 2000 is a religious station, and will not be broadcasting from Sundown on Friday, to sundown Saturday night.

Thanks to Mike Brand for Israeli news.

Chris Edwards is editor of *Offshore Echo's* magazine. For more information write to Chris' address/email or browse their webpage at <http://www.guernseyweb.co.uk/offshore.html>.

US PIRATE SCENE

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Hello from America! A farewell to Chris Lobdell and a big thanks for the excellent work that he has provided. He will be missed here at *Pirate Connection*. And, another big thanks to Stefan for giving me the chance to continue the *American Connection* column. Having spent a great deal of time in Europe I will keep my friends there in mind with this column. (Hello Torsten and Manfred wherever you are.) I know that pirate radio is somewhat different on either side of the Atlantic Ocean. Some models of radios are different, formats for pirate radio stations are different, and antenna laws may be somewhat different. But, differences can be very interesting. I think it makes the hobby bigger and better! And now, on to the news from America.

THE CURRENT SCENE

A lot of activity is always going on in Free Radio. Activity is definitely growing. A lot of week night shows can be heard if one keeps the radio on 6.955. Sideband broadcasts still outnumber AM ones, so European reception may be looking good. Actual reception reports still don't agree with the sunspot cycle and predictions. Much more can be heard than one would think from the predictions. Also, the 0300-0500 UTC window for low noise and great propagation seems to have gone away. The best times for reception appears to be 2200-0100 UTC. Most Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights are jam packed with pirates on or close around 6.955. Also, check around 13.900 and 10.040 from time to time. A recent test transmission on 10.040 by Club 30 was extremely loud and very clear during the 1500-1600 UTC time span. This was a killer signal! This station and frequency certainly has the ability to jump the big pond. The best advice for DXing U.S. Free Radio is to use sideband first when trying to catch the American stations, and use AM only if you have a strong signal. The second week in October saw a lot of pirate activity on Monday through Friday nights at 2300- 0200 UTC.

The fighting among pirates and others in the hobby seemed to have stopped, but it is heating up again. We have seen too many negative issues this past year, and the break was very much welcome while it lasted. Maybe everyone can forget the fights and focus on the fun in 1997. Another brief welcome was the absence of pirate shows that are produced for the sole purpose of slamming other pirate stations, and making attempts to identify the operators. There was a rash of these in the past few months until a short break. Sadly, a few repeats of these shows have begun again. Most didn't have a drop address. Another well known station finally did send out QSLs after a long waiting period, but these were the cheaply xeroxed sheets that didn't have much to do with station or broadcast information.



ON THE AIR

Alan Maszga Project, as reported by Chris last month has a new show on with "We're Baaaack". Good Alan Parsons tunes, comedy, and the Providence, R.I. address for a drop. Alan Maszga's address and phone number wasn't given out this time. It was reported that Alan was upset at his information being given out on the air. If you remember, this station is named after the DXer who is reported to have absolutely terrible handwriting. There is also a fake AMP station on that QSLs too. If the station plays only Alan Parsons Project songs, then it is most likely the original AMP. If other songs are in the mix, then it is mostly likely the "other" station.

WARR, a new station, has been hyperactive these past two months. Some of the shows are probably live. All are different and interesting. Drug advocacy and hard rock and roll are the primary themes of this station. Some of the shows are obviously taped and re-played a few times, but some really do sound like they are live. Some very good studio work was heard on one show with a long sound collage. If you hear an "arrrrgh" by a deep voice, then it may be WARR.

WPRS, another new station that finally has a Belfast, N.Y. drop. Rock and comedy is played in each show. A lot of listeners report good signals too. WPRS announced a QSL available for listeners who reported reception on the Alt.Radio.Pirate newsgroup when first coming on the air. The Free Radio Network page was also used as a means to send in reception reports. Some replies from the station operator via personal email were reported.



Radio Mirage via NAPRS relay. Excellent broadcasts were heard with the unique format that we've come to expect. Signals from NAPRS are improving with conditions. It was good to hear Radio Mirage again. NAPRS has been airing some very slick promotional cuts before and after their relays. These are well

produced and easy to recognize. Good job Dick Pistek on the relays and station announcements.

KTIA, with DJ T was heard again with the oldies songs that are played in each broadcast. It was good to hear voice of DJ T again and her selection of music.

Chucky Cheese Pizza Parlor, was heard again with a repeat of the show that was a celebration of John T. Arthur's birthday....sort of. It was a mix of old music and parody songs that weren't flattering to the opinionated columnist of The ACE, or maybe they were inside jokes. The station name comes from a pizza chain here in America. This station didn't announce a drop address.

CSHT, or Chicken Shit Radio was heard again. This station has been getting some air time from various pirate operators around the country. It is a station that is a mockery of the CSIC pirate station from Canada. Numerous references to CSIC were made during the show. Some good comedy was included. No drop information was announced. This station is somewhat different from the other "pirate wars" stations in that it includes some good programming and comedy, and doesn't attempt to single out pirate operators or their identities.

Up Your Shortwave Radio is a station with a one sided political view. If you are a Democrat in America, then you will enjoy this station. Republicans with a sense of humor may also find some laughs. Some political songs were played, as well as audio cuts from various politicians. It is a timely production with the election coming up over here. A second show just aired several times with excellent signals.

Radio Fusion Radio has been on the air recently. Unfortunately, they seem to be coming on right after other stations are just starting into their shows. Are they intentionally jamming other pirates with their rap music? Time will tell, but this appears to be the case. This turns the 6.955 frequency into a mess. Some operators are resorting to using LSB or moving up just a few kHz.

Cat in the Hat Radio is a new station that debuted this summer. The station is based on the children's books and TV shows by Dr. Seuss. Very slick production with a totally unique idea. Heard airing with many broadcasts, this show was widely reported.

Timothy Leary Radio (?), this station aired loops of Dr. Timothy Leary's sayings and the song, "Timothy Leary" by The Moody Blues on the evening of his death. One session lasted almost three hours!

RUMORS

WGTX SW is applying for a FCC license on 6.960. The expected stop may kill the 6.955 frequency. Some talk is circulating about dropping down a few kHz to the 6.950-6.952 range for most pirate broadcasts. You may want to keep this in mind.

Radio Bob's Communication Network (RBCN) has announced that it is going dark. This station always put out killer signals and great comedy. The rumored reason for quitting free radio is a certain person making overt attempts to expose the identity of the operator. Unnecessary harassment of the operator for unknown reasons forced him to make this sad decision. This is another example of the pirate wars taking a toll on the Free Radio hobby. A lot of dedicated listeners, as well as any new listeners out there, will pay the price of one disgruntled misfit who takes pleasure in causing trouble. The Atlanta, Georgia drop will stay open for the time being.

VERIFYING YOUR RECEPTION REPORT of
Kranker Radio International
 Date Received: 27.12.1991
 Time: 12:20 / 9:10 U.T.C.
 Frequency: 8212.002

Date this verification completed: 1/20/92
 Thanks for checking out!

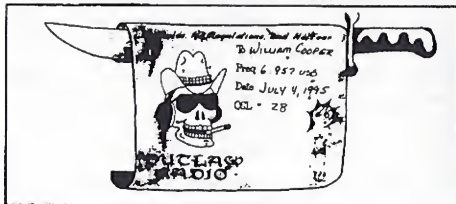
ANNOUNCER: **R.J. Ryan**

**Kranker
Radio
International
U.S.A.**
A NEW SOUND FOR A NEW ERA

Radio Free Speech just announced that it was going to air a lot of broadcasts on 7.415. The mode wasn't announced. Good luck if operator Bill O. Rights can find a wide enough space to air anything without QRM.

More sad news of established stations going dark. **NAPRS** (the North American Pirate Relay

Service) has announced their retirement from the pirate radio scene. Many reasons have been rumored, but it appears that this is a retirement for personal reasons. Over the past 4 years NAPRS has relayed many, many stations that were widely heard in the U.S. and Europe. This was our main link to European and Russian pirate broadcasts, and not enough good things can be said about the great service that **Dick Pistek** has provided to the hobby. And, this was a unique station in that so many different pirates were relayed. Both continents will miss this station! This was sad news, indeed. Good luck Dick Pistek. We'll be keeping an ear out for your return one day...



The QSL-card from Captain Blood's own station, Outlaw Radio.

That's it for this month from across the pond. Thanks again to Stefan for putting together a great crew of writers and contributors. Keep listening and reporting those catches to all of the traditional and electronic magazines. You can send personal mail to me via the SRS email drop at outlaw@srs.pp.se by addressing your message to **Captain Blood**. You can also send mail via the WWW page at www.pp.kat.net/jonny/pc/index.html. This is the Pirate Connection page with email drops that will reach me in one fashion, or another. Your comments, suggestions, or rumors and information is most welcome. Confidentiality is guaranteed as all of the email drop people of most highly trusted. Be sure to specify if you want your ID kept secret. This is your column, so send your comments.

RADIO BARONES

Medium Wave: 1615 kHz

P.O.Box 73, 7160 AB Nede, The Netherlands

See you next issue,
Captain Blood

OFFSHORE RADIO

From rumour to reality

Over the past few months rumours have been in overdrive, with stories of at least three offshore radio stations heading for Europe.

THE ELECTRA

The Internet and American radio trade press have carried reports of a project by **Lightwave Mission Broadcasting** to set up an offshore radio station. Those behind Lightwave are **Allan Weiner** and **Scott Becker**, known from their involvement with **Radio New York International** and the ill-fated **MV Fury**. The new vessel is named **Electra**, after radio pioneers Guglielmo Marconi experimental radioship of the 1920's - also named **Electra**. The new ship is only 27 metres (90 foot) long and a former ocean going tug. Already on board the ship, according to Scott Becker, are three shortwave and one AM transmitters.

The purpose of the station is to provide a free radio voice that can travel to those in need. The ship will not have one, but several anchorages around the world. They claim to be the first mobile radiostation from a ship. "The beauty of this radio station is its ability to go where a radio presence is needed, anywhere on earth. "The new radioship will be tough and dependable, able to broadcast anywhere" said Allan H. Weiner. The programmes will not carry political issues; or initially any religious programmes. The offshore station will broadcast a variety of programmes, many dealing with environmental issues facing the world's oceans and peoples.

PROJECT MOON

Another ship that has been generating a lot of interest is one that has been variously been referred to as the "Bacardi" or "Radio Marti" ship, as well as "**Project Moon**". The UK premium rated phone line Silver Crystal Radio News, reported that Worldwide Broadcasting Corporation were involved in the fitting out of a radioship in 1987, and that US \$2 (?) million

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had been spent on equipping it on behalf of their client.

The ship, a 104 metres (340 foot) long former freighter was fitted out at Port Everglades, Florida, at the yard of Tracor Marine - where Laser's ship **MV Communicator** was fitted. It was fitted with two Nautel 50kw transmitters with an American designed custom combiner unit to give 100 kW output. This was designed for operation of one station. The studios were fitted with modern equipment, mixing desks, 3 turntables and an automation system.

The ship contains 32 separate cabins for crew, multi-standard TVs and an Immarsat satellite system with phone and fax. There are also 3 Caterpillar generators at 40 KVA each, 150 tons of fuel capacity, 60 tons of fresh water capacity and a desalination plant. A transmitting mast was left on the deck awaiting erection. This comprised four sections and telescopic design, 2.64 metres (8'-6") square at base and tapering up to 75 metres (246 feet) height.

The ship was owned by a US born Bahamian resident, who decided not to go ahead and advertise his drinks in this way. It was moth-balled in 1988 and remained so until the end of May this year, when it moved to another location for work to be carried out. The ship's owner has now sold, or given the ship to a British friend with strong Jewish connections.

Project Moon has allegedly been connected with a British political reform party, who are planning to use the station to air their views in the run up to next year's UK general elections.

Rumours of a third offshore station seem to combine elements of the above projects and appear to be unfounded. As usual we'll have to wait and see what - if anything develops. One place where offshore radio is reality, as opposed to rumour, is Israel.

Continued on page 7.

US PIRATE FEATURES

Yolanda Lewis
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USA
ACEPUB@aol.com

Radio Bob's Communications Network

Welcome to yet another installment of pirate news from the USA. Today, I am pleased to bring to you an interview from **Radio Bob's Communications Network** (RBCN). This interview was written entirely by Radio Bob back in spring of 1996.

"Greetings worldwide pirate chasers. Radio Bob here from a place way down in Dixie where pirate shows like mine make Marconi wish he just stayed in bed!

And now you ask what the heck I'm doing here in print wasting your time. After all, don't I waste enough of your time as is with my radio shows? Anyway, I've been asked to provide a little something by Yolanda, so here I am today to rap with ya about me and pirating.

I started out in transmit radio by getting in on the U.S. Citizen's Band Radio explosion when I was 18 in 1976. My beginning experience with cheap CB radios put me on the usual ladder climb of radio enthusiasts of getting better and better equipment. After a while I was CB'ing on ham gear and started listening in on all that was going on the world-wide bands.

It was not until 1991 that a friend of mine introduced me to what was happening on the SW scene. I got to listening for pirates and after catching the first two or three comedy pirate programs I was hooked. I know I like to laugh and I would like to think that I have a sense of humor. So I just sort of said...yeah...I can do this...and the rest is ongoing history.

Lets see, I think I made up the name, "Radio Bob's Communications Network" in about 45 seconds and on my first attempt. No extra effort spent there as you can tell. A very good friend had a collection of original history material - unused and on hand, so we

put together the first couple of shows in February and March of 1992. I've had terrific fun producing two or three shows a year since then. Being in the South, much of my material has been southern-country related, but not all. I'm open to using anything that's funny. It has turned out that my shows have all revolved around various themes, special events, or holidays. Creating original comedy material is an act and a talent. I have found that one needs to be open about looking for and acquiring new material, basically "any way you can."

Anyone should be able to tell, by listening to a studio copy of any of my shows that I care much more about the quality of the material itself as opposed to how well the segments are technically mixed together at production time. I appreciate the element of our being "amateur individuals" rather than commercial-sounding professionals.

I use a few station slogans such as "I'm out to help you beat the high cost of free radio" and have likewise never asked for stamps or money to be sent with reception reports to get a QSL card.

At broadcast time my transmit methods are pitifully simple. I usually just play the show tape on my cassette player through pair of headphones which are draped over my HF's radio's microphone. Downright primitive it is, but it seems to work well for shortwave.

99% of the time I use sideband as a transmission mode. My rig doesn't drift and I get a good bang for my buck at 100 watts. My antenna choice hands down is the loop skywire. If you have the yard space to put it up then I believe the loop is a fine choice.

Continued on page 30.

MY WINDOW TO THE WORLD

Björn Quaeck
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In socialist East Germany shortwave listening was a delicate hobby, particularly for DXers like Horst Cersovsky who were interested in the free radio scene. "Vogelfreies Radio" author Björn Quaeck asked him what DXing was like in the GDR and what has changed in the meantime.

When did you pick up your very first pirate?

I've been listening to foreign broadcasting stations since I was 13. Quite early I was fascinated by the news about the famous radio ships. I very well remember my first log of Radio Caroline and the start of Radio North-sea in 1970. The music the offshore stations played was great, but even more exciting was the imagination of a station transmitting from the High Sea. I felt I was part of a very special community of radio enthusiasts.

What about your receiving equipment in those days?

I started with just a simple radio you'd find in many living-rooms. It was amazing though how well it worked with its valves and some 20 metres of longwire. There were no real communications receivers available in the GDR, but you could buy a variety of Soviet transistor radios with several shortwave bands. I purchased my first "VEF 206" for 200 Marks in a second hand shop. That receiver made it possible to tune to the tropical bands. It was

quite popular among DXers in East Germany, and it performed pretty well. At the end of the 70s I used it to catch various pirates on medium wave 227 metres, most of them from Holland. Later on I also bought an old aircraft receiver.

What problems did pirate DXers face when they tried to get in contact with the stations?

The state officials checked letters that came into the country and went out. When I corresponded with pirates of course I didn't mention the word "radio" on the envelope, and most of my mail arrived without problems. Receiving the replies, however, was much more difficult. A lot of letters disappeared on their way to the GDR. How much actually came through seemed to depend on the person who checked the mail. We also had no chance to send return postage along with our reception reports. Picture postcards, GDR stamps etc. were no real substitute. Nevertheless, the vast majority of free radio stations replied to reports from East Germany, which I think is a remarkable gesture. That sort of solidarity is certainly one of the reasons why I stuck to the pirate hobby till today.

How dangerous was your hobby?

I wouldn't call it a dangerous hobby. Everybody who came in contact with the "non-socialist economic system" (the technical term in those days) was sure the authorities kept an eye on him. Listening itself could not be punished. However, within the GDR laws it was easy to interpret any contact to the West as a subversive act. It was possible to put pressure upon the DXers, and in some cases the authorities did that. For me it is ob-

Personal info

Horst Cersovsky aged 40 is living in Sangerhausen. For the last 16 years he has been working as an economy teacher at a vocational school. He's editing the free radio news section of Radioropa's DX programme "Radiotreff" (Sundays 13-14 hrs UTC on 261 kHz and satellite).

vious that some hobby friends were unofficial members of the Ministry for State Security (Stasi). One day I'll take a look into my personal files to find out. To sum it up, my experience was that the state didn't like the DX hobby but turned a blind eye on it as long as it happened silently.

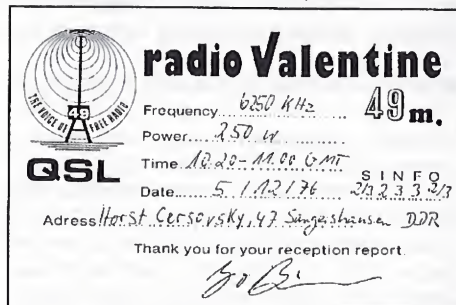
How did you manage to get access to free radio information?

The state didn't tolerate any sort of organisation among shortwave listeners. Western magazines were usually pinched by the customs people. Personal contacts proved to be the best way to exchange information. A small number of hobby enthusiasts passed on the news from one to the other. That worked as long the members of that circle were reliable enough to keep it going. That way I received several magazines including the well-known one published by the DX team 21 from Rathenow. Besides, listeners permanently shared logs and news with each other. Sometimes, magazines from the West made it across the border in a small envelope with the pages miniaturized by photo copying. As far as my contacts were concerned I decided to be rather cautious. The DX hobby was my window to the world. I didn't want to risk getting forced to give it up or get problems on my job.

Were there any pirate stations in the GDR?

No, I can only remember one relay programme with East German rock music. If there were any pirates before everything

changed in 1989, those stations must have been short-lived. Illegal broadcasting was a political act by itself, and it was obvious that the authorities would punish it without compromise. You cannot compare this with the legal situation in a democracy.



A collector's item: Horst Cersovsky's Radio Valentine QSL from late 1976.

What has changed for you and your hobby after the end of the socialist regime?

A Sony ICF2001D, an NRD 525G and subscriptions to various radio-related magazines have made everything a lot easier for me. During the last few years, I was also able to meet some of the station operators. Ringing up a pirate station when a live phone-in broadcast is on the air is still a terrific feeling for me. All in all, DXing today has become quite comfortable. On the other hand, I often don't have much time left for the hobby, and all the improvements are normal by now. Still, my logs and contacts from the past will always remain something special if you bear in mind under which difficult circumstances they were made.

MERCHWEILER

- the Mecca of Free Radio!

The SWLCS DX-Camp '96 visited by Jonny Augustsson & Stefan Printz

At last, the time had come to leave the calm atmosphere in Sweden and spread out our wings and head towards the big continent. Jonny arrived in Malmö already a few days before our departure though, and spent some time on the popular "Malmö Festival" event - the only time of the year the inhabitants of Malmö and environs can unrestrictedly amuse themselves for a large amount of money. The festival is also famous for its special beer, which definitely will become history because it's the absolutely worst beer ever to be brewed! Anyway, we both had a good time and especially Jonny got the opportunity of experiencing Malmö at the best time of the season.

attended an employment interview and when finally arriving back to the apartment, several hours delayed, things were going like a house on fire. Things had to be packed, and the telephone was constantly ringing because Stefan had just given his landlord notice and some people would like to come and have a look on the apartment. One of them was, to Jonny's big surprise and as he had it "Malmö's only celebrity", Ola Ström from the Swedish TV success "Solstallarna" (The Sun Fools) who lives in the neighbourhood and was looking for a smaller apartment than his present one. Anyway, when things began to calm down a bit, we decided to have an evening meal at Stefan's favourite restaurant "Casa Mia" in the



Otherwise things were very hectic for Stefan over the weekend, so we actually couldn't spend much time together. The day before the departure, Monday August 12th, Stefan

heart of Malmö. Stefan's close female friend Marie also accompanied and we had a nice evening with the heart-breaking sounds of a passionate and tearful-evoking Italian mushy

singer. At times the modulation was terrible with some grating loudspeaker sounds, but "Mr. Mushy" hurried out to some wardrobe and adjusted for the intensively high tones.

Now the day had come for departure. The reason for going down already on Tuesday was because of an invitation we got from Chris Ise of **Crazy Wave Radio**, who wanted us to pay him and his family a visit for a few days before the Merchweiler event. We packed everything in and off we went with **"The Black Danger"**, a 15-year-old Ford Fiesta with its own history, but we'll have to leave that for another time. We took the car ferry from Limhamn to Dragør in Denmark, then a 180 km drive to Rødby and a second ferry to Puttgarden in the north of Germany.



In the tax-free shop onboard the Puttgarden ferry, Jonny "unintentionally" tries to exceed the ration limit. Better luck next time, Jonny!

With about 600-700 km ahead, we entered the famous German highways with 140-150 km/h and we had a nice drive until Hamburg, when the weather gods finally emerged with all their might. An outrageous cloudburst! All heaven's doors open! However, "The Black Danger" struggled forward and the journey

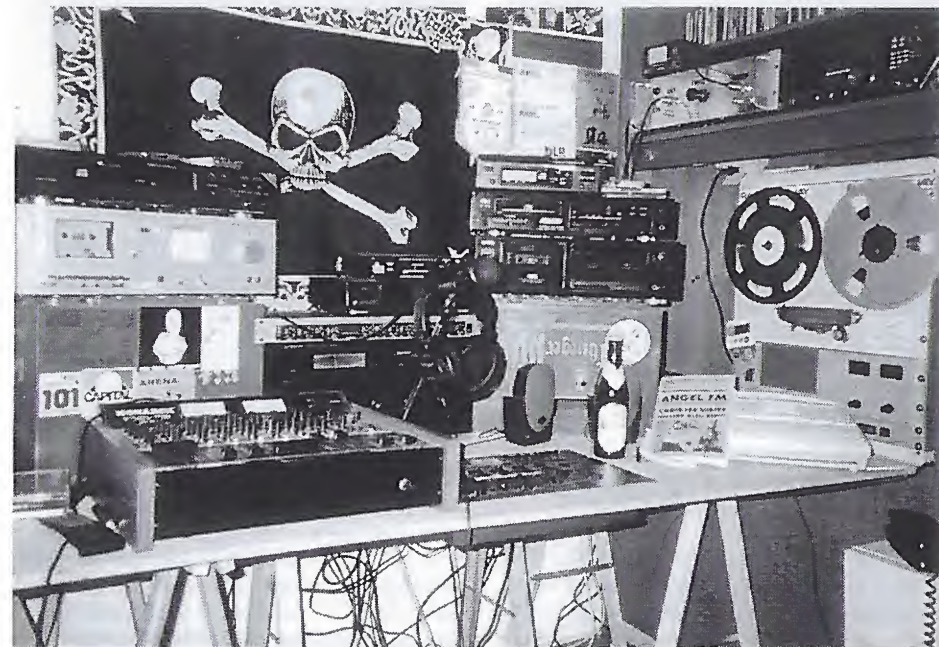
continued. Every second or third hour we stopped and had a pause at any of the gas stations along the highway. It was at one of these gas stations, it happened. The car wouldn't start! Not a single sound from the engine compartment - signal strength 0 expressed in radio language. Despair - half the way down in Germany and the car goes on a sit-down strike! Jonny went back into the gas station, trying to get some help. One of the guys takes pity on us and joins Jonny to the car. Despite trying several different things, including some banging with a hammer, nothing moves. Finally he offers us to call for a "Kraftwagen" van, which is a rolling service van and there are plenty of those along the German highways. Only five minutes later, an elder, cheerful man arrives and asks about our problem. After listening to the absolute silence for a few seconds, he goes back to his van and fetches a...right, a hammer! Three well-directed strokes with the hammer against the starting motor's coil and an inquiry to Stefan for another try to turning on the engine, resulted in big smiles on all concerned parties' faces. It was a great relief to us and we were rolling ahead again.

The night came quickly upon us and at 10 o'clock we called our host Chris, telling him we only had an hour to go now. Oh dear, how wrong we were! It all started with the roads which split up more rapidly than we managed to notice, so instead of turning to the left at one road splitting, we ended up in lane to the right. Who's the one to be blamed for this, we would not like to say. Each one of us has his own version, so we guess it's up to you readers to decide which one of us is the most truthful person...? Anyway, we tried to find the way back to Autobahn, which actually was easier said than done. After choosing the most "logically correct" roads, all of a sudden we stop before a red-light which seems familiar. Sure, we passed that light just a few minutes ago! So, yet another tour around this German village. We asked a couple of locals for help and we finally we managed to find our way to the small village where Chris lives. But then more problems arose. The hand-written map from Chris was in scale 1:random number and we couldn't possibly find the way to Chris's house. Then

Jonny called the number Chris had written down on the paper, but it turned out being incorrect! After eight signals a German drowsy-head answers and wonders if the house is on fire (or something similar)! There is a pub just on the opposite side of the phone-box, so the German-speaking of the two of us (that is, Jonny) enters into the box and asks if they possibly could know anything about Chris. Sure they did - Chris's father had been at the pub just a few hours ago and he had also told them that they expected two Swedish guests! So, after some explanations about

to some nice music, have a couple of beers and of course, talks about Free Radio.

The two coming days, Wednesday and Thursday, we made some shopping and sight-seeing and in this German province which I believe is one of the more popular ones because of the heavy tourism. Especially one could see Japanese people everywhere. Maybe there's some good explanation why the area is so dominated by the Japanese, perhaps Chris could tell. We also went to a city where the PTT has one of its major offices.



The delightful CWR studio.

the way, we take the car heading towards the street where Chris lives. We don't get that far though, because on our way we discover a young lad running worriedly as if it were a fire in the neighbourhood. The lad appears to be Chris, who had been worried about the fact that we didn't arrive within the stipulated time. So finally we had arrived and inside the two-floor house awaited some delicious sandwiches and beer. 12 o'clock at night, Chris takes us to his studio, which is really a great sight with complete studio equipment, computer and communications receiver. We listen

Of course, we couldn't resist taking a nice shot of the whole "palace"! Another fine reminiscence was Thursday evening before we went to Merchweiler. Together with Chris and his father and younger brother, we went to one of these typical German open-air restaurants in the middle of nowhere. The restaurant was run by a family who were wine-growers and farmers beside this restaurant business. After a delicious meal and a pleasant time with our company, we naturally bought some bottles of "Wienersekt" and other good labels before returning back to Chris's residence.



Chris, Jonny, Stefan, beers and lots of Free Radio chat at one of the pubs in Chris's city.



A nice and cosy evening before leaving to Merchweiler. From left to right: Jonny, Chris's younger brother, Chris and his father.

Eventually, Friday appeared and it was time for taking off to Merchweiler. Chris promised his mother to check the air pressure of the tyres, which was hardly a happy story. We sat in the car waiting for Chris to finish with the car, when he suddenly came rushing towards us, showing the ignition key - In two pieces!! So, we had to drive back again to get the spare key. The lesson of all this must be that you shouldn't use your car keys in order to remove the plastic protections around the rims! A second try and we were on our way to Merchweiler again, this time without any major problems (knock on wood...). Suddenly Chris stops his car in the middle of a road and we wonder if he has gone completely crazy, but no, behind one of the houses the Merchweiler camping is to be found! The time is now about two o'clock on the afternoon

and everything is already at full speed. A couple of small tents are put up and it's seething with activities all over the place. Finding the way to the "Free Radio Zelt" (Free Radio Tent), which we had previously heard so much about from Chris, was an easy task. It was the biggest tent and loud, rhythmic music was pouring out of it. Several operators walked out from the tent to greet us welcome, among these were Radio Benelux, Radio Laguna and all the numerous staff of Süd West Radio.



Radio Benelux and Radio Laguna.

Later during the day, we met Johan of Radio Barones and his charming girlfriend. We first saw him at the pub of the camping, with a hat and smoking a big cigar - just the way we had been told was so typical about Johan! Cool. He also took the opportunity of showing how his new 'monster' antenna had been erected beside his and his German girlfriend's new house. He also took his chances to annoy other operators using less than 1 kW. We were told that his new outlet would yield an output of 10 kW or more!! Well, now all should know why he's very rightly is called "The Maestro". Or using Stefan's denomination, "The Duke of Medium Wave".

Other operators who participated were International Music Radio and his fellow Radio Sparks, Radio Northsea, Passion Radio, Radio Perfekt, PFBS, Radio Rabbit International, Radio Big Brother (from 1984), Radio Schlitzohr, Speedwing Radio, Star Club Radio, Telstar, Radio Titanic International, Radio Vanessa, Wellenbrecher, Radio Wonderful, Radio Fu-

sion International, Radio Waves International, Fox AM, Radio Tonair and Radio Torenvalk.



Left: Chris Ise, right: "The Maestro" (Johan of Barones), middle: Anna, Johan's girlfriend.



The Free Radio Tent, with Speedwing Radio at the mike, in other words, plenty of dirty jokes!

Other famous people were Kai, founder of the famous Radiotelex magazine (big German fortnightly FR publication in the mid 80's)



Pirate Andy of German fame PFBS - Pirate Freak's Broadcasting Service and Kai, founder of Radiotelex.

and Rainer Brandt - during recent years famous for his outstanding logs of American Free Radio stations.



"The link across the big pond", Rainer Brandt visited the Merchweiler camp briefly during Saturday. Of course he wears an NA pirate T-shirt - from the NAPRS.

Please excuse us if we forgot anyone! Steven Willers of Radio Sparks were running around with a video camera all the time, doing some kind of documentary of the whole event. One of the features was an interview with Stefan and they mainly discussed Free Radio in general and the Pirate Connection magazine.



The Swiss guys, left DJ Yves of International Music Radio, right Steven Willers of Radio Sparks.

Well, we actually forgot one mysterious weirdo. He was dressed in a Caroline T-shirt and photographed everybody who kept themselves nearby the Free Radio Tent. Even

Jack Russel of WMR actually planned to go, but failed to get a cheap ticket when his friends' travel agency had recently gone bankrupt. Unfortunately, there were smaller



Party's on dudes!!

more strange was that he didn't talk to anyone and nobody at the camp knew who he was!! The only conclusion is that he was a special correspondent or "spy" from the PIT. What a dirty, little stupid trick, don't you think?! Well, at least there were more interesting activities than this. Two things that constantly cross our minds are "Kom up the band" and "Twanzig Mac!". The first quote from Mr. Barones who hi-jacked the studio a few times too many, the other from Laguna who pretended having some kind of public sale of the studio equipment and other things and everything sold went under the hammer for 20 Marks! Nice that some people can enjoy themselves for almost nothing!

On Saturday, the **Level 48** team had called for a meeting. Of course, this was a golden opportunity to arrange this meeting, since all operators were present except Weekend Music Radio, Transatlantic Radio, RFL and Z-100.

things than PIT that put this union into terror. The place where the meeting was meant to take place, turned out to be right on the spot



Kom op de band!!!!

of a wasp's nest! Some morning running never hurts... Anyway, the meeting was held and

the time for the next broadcast was decided (secret date). We do hope that this will become more successful than the previous ones, when the gods of conditions haven't been on the crew's side so far.



The most complete Level 48 team ever to gather.

After the meeting we both made some interviews for Pirate Connection and SRS. Jonny spoke with Pirate Andy of PFBS and Stefan interviewed his good friends from Holland, Jos of Radio Tonair and Hans of Radio Torenvalk who told about their crazy **Radio New World** project. Next time they would be on four frequencies in parallel, they told. Maybe something for the Guinness World of Records.



Pirate Connection's technical expert Hans of Radio Torenvalk and his colleague Jos of Radio Tonair. What are you up to now, guys??

Stefan also planned to interview Kai of Radiotelex, but when Stefan tried to find him, he had already left the camp together with Pirate Andy. Jonny's next 'victim' was Charly

Rafferty from Süd West Radio who told that the station was founded back in 1982 and consists of five main persons plus some volunteer 'observers'. The five are Charly, Roland McCain, Eric van Ackerblom, Peter Dark and Henry Fox. Jonny was also told that SWR was the inventor of the photo QSL-cards and were different for every broadcast.



Jonny and Charly Rafferty.

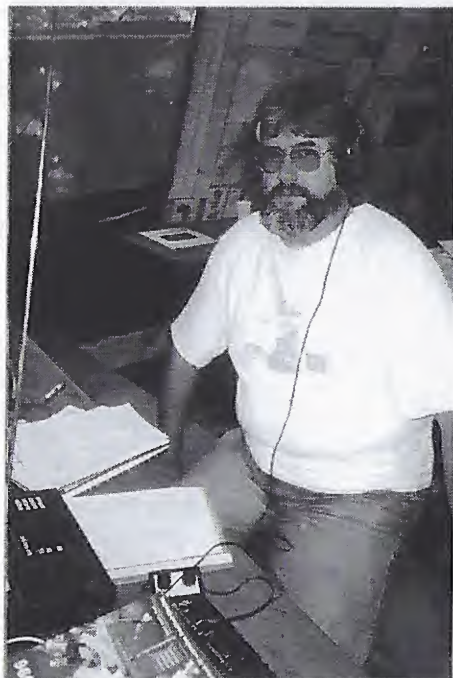
Where else where there? In fact, the event is a camp for all types of DX-activities, although



Eric van Ackerblom, also Süd West Radio, was often surrounded by these two German grrlies in the Free Radio tent.

you may get the impression that there were only pirates present. Well, then we'll try to complete the story a bit. **Radio Slowakia International** and **HCJB** were represented, as well as were **Radio Minsk!** But the most remarkable was the guys doing 27 MHz packet radio. They had erected a 5 metre high mast consisting merely of...beer-cans! Then there was a tent for private radio enthusiasts and

another tent for shortwave listeners, dripped with QSL-card all the way along the canvases. Not to forget the dog who was more alike a pig. Finally there was a flea market with different useful and useless things which simply are a must for us "radiots" (radio idiots).



Roy Clarke, Star Club Radio, belonged to the gang who assiduously scanned the shortwave bands throughout the entire camp.

The Saturday evening and night was very calm. Everybody seemed to be pissed-off after the whole day's partying, except the



The operators of a local FM-pirate in Germany, Power FM.



Michael Scott of the Fox AM, took the opportunity of listening to WUS who was heard with their 5 anniversary broadcast on 3910 kHz.

Barones who shouted his "Kom up the band" thing from the Free Radio Tent. Jonny got a personal invitation from the chairman of the organisers SWLCS, Peter Hell, to view his incredible collection of receivers and peripheral equipment. An impressive sight! All walls were covered with pennants from all corners of the world. Satellite DX-ing was also a part of the demonstration, where an enormous amount of programs could be selected. We could never believe there were so much rubbish to watch!



Safely arrived back in Sweden, Marie (right) invited us, Jonny (left) and Stefan (behind the camera) for tea at her apartment. Merchweiler was a 'fait accompli'.

To sum up, this was an excellent event, well worth every single penny spent! We would like to say a big 'thank-you' to the organisers SWLCS who did a marvellous job and made this to an unforgettable memory. So for next year folks, be sure to join us at Merchweiler - the Mecca everybody with any relation to Free Radio must go to!

ON THE MARKET

Free Radio Info is an interesting German publication in A5-format with lots of logs and news. The latest issue also have a special story on the Merchweiler meeting. A sample can be obtained for 5 DM or 3 IRCs at Box 520112, 44207 Dortmund, Germany.

Free Radio Weekly is an e-mail based Free Radio mag on the market, not available on printed papers. The newsletter is for the US market, compiled once a week. Editors are Chris Lobdell and Neil Wolfish. For more information, write to piradio@usa1.com.

We have to apologies to FRSH for not mentioning their nice **FRS Goes DX** magazine! There are similarities to Pirate Connection, but FRSGDX is not so specialised of land-based piracy as PC is. There is a comprehensive SW survey with Free Radio logs and news, offshore report, satellite news, and radio news in general and Dutch radio news in particular. Issue #141 is out now with a very interesting story on Radio ABC/Denmark (see E.P.S.). A sample copy is DM 5 or 3 USD. Address: Box 2727, 6049 Z'G Herten, The Netherlands.

Radio News from Free Radio Campaign Germany, published twice a year. Mostly offshore news, but also some landbased pirate news, all in German. Very high quality offset printing. A sample copy is yours for \$6, £4 or DM 9. Order from Free Radio Campaign Germany, Box 2209, 77612 Offenburg, Germany.

Offshore Echo's - the longest-running Free Radio mag and entirely about offshore radio. Lots of nostalgia, interviews, features and pictures. And some real offshore news, the little there is. The most professional and nice-layout mags of all. A new issue is soon forthcoming and will contain extensive stories and pictures of the news you can read in Chris Edward's offshore column, among many other things. Subscriptions: £19 (5 is-

sues). If you live in Sweden, you can pay SEK 225 to postal giro account 64 60 67-9 (FRC Sweden).

Onda Callente - the shortwave station that answer the first report for each broadcast with a QSL-condom! - is now also an electronic publication. Check out their interesting Web site on: www.mnet.fr/onda.callente/index.html.

Pirate Chat is a sad story. Not only does it have a very childish and immature writer, after the recent, unexpected return, rumour tells us they will close again. Not a big loss for the market, but I think it was a shame anyway because it was a good complement to FRS Goes DX and Pirate Connection. Unfortunately, we can't review the latest issue, since David refuses to send us the mag anymore, despite out mutual agreement on exchanging mags! It seems as though poor David can't take any criticism at all. But I think anyone except me can get their hands of an issue if you write to their maildrop which is Pirate Chat, c/o SRS, Östra Porten 29, 442 54 Ytterby, Sweden.

SRS News is the "must" bulletin for every serious Free Radio DX-er. It's published weekly and available on Internet, by fax or on printed papers. For more details, write to SRS, Östra Porten 29, 442 54 Ytterby, Sweden. Or why not have a look on their nice Web-page: www.pp.hogla.net/jonny/index.html.

Vogelfreies Radio is an interesting publication in German which can out last autumn. The book on 180 (!) pages gives a complete and detailed story of all active German and Swiss stations during the 1980's until 1995. We highly recommend this one! \$20 for Europeans and \$35 for anywhere else. Send in cash to Björn Quäck, Box 103113, 44031 Dortmund, Germany. Also check out Björn's interview with Horst Cersovsky in this issue of Pirate Connection!

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THE LETTER-BOX

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Thanks for all encouraging letters and comments regarding "Cries from the sandpit". It's good to see that so many people reject Pirate Chat's naive propaganda. Some did not however, and we'll publish one or two of these letters.

Many people at the Merchweiler camp was a bit worried about the "rivalry" between Pirate Connection and Pirate Chat. "Hey, what's the heck is going on between you. Why is David writing all these ugly things about you?" Honestly, I don't know. The chief editor has acted as a 5-year-old and refuses to take a debate on the subject I wanted to discuss in the last issue of PC. Even worse, he's stopped sending me Pirate Chat without letting me know and for no good reason at all. The plain truth is that David is a know-all who can't take any criticism at all. It's not strange that people don't want to have anything to do with such a peevish attitude. There is one good thing though, and that is that Pirate Chat has decided to close for good. In a way sad, but I think the situation is more or less untenable, as long as David doesn't apologise to all his readers and behave like a human being.

Regarding bad experiences with Pirate Chat, I have good company in **Tony Smith** (Weird Beard), who was one of our guest writers last time. He tells: "The magazine is excellent, especially the pages devoted to pointing out the foolishness of the egoistic Mr. Pirate Chat. I was beginning to think that I was the only one who was not at all impressed by David and his daft ideas. I was not too happy when I sent a £10 donation and a free copy of the Angel Video and did not even get an acknowledgement let alone a 'thank you' from him, but I was totally amazed when the latest Pirate Crap arrived with a note saying I will have to send money to David if I want the mag in future."

Hans of Radio Torenvalk comments the "affair": "I agree with you 100%, but I was surprised you were so aggressive."

Chris of Crazy Wave writes: "This guy has such strange opinions and there must be put something against it. I think he is really alone with his opinion and I do not know what he finds interesting in polka and QSOs... But also his arguments against 48 metres are a bit strange; as you wrote it, there is a tradition on this band, and most listeners only scan 48 on Sunday morning, like I also do."

Kai Salve Salvesen wrote me a long and very interesting letter, where he says he disagrees with my article: "It's not true when you say that 76 metres has bad coverage during daytime - because within 100 up to 200 km radius, it is very good."

This is certainly so, and that's why it's not interesting. The ground-wave works well up to a small distant (200 km you say) and may be interesting for some local QSO-ers and perhaps also some DX-ers, but for normal Free Radio listening of stations from all over Europe, it's often a waste of time even to tune in to the band, except for the early morning hours when reception are more favourable.

We have space for a final letter. It comes from Björn Fransson in Gotland, Sweden who also comment my debate article: "I think you should have mentioned the fact that there are about 60 legal stations registered on the 76 metre band and many of them originate from the tropics. It's frustrating to be interfered by pirates when trying to listen to for instance Print Disabled Radio on New Zealand."

This is a common remark from non Free Radio enthusiasts. 1) The programmes from the tropics are not meant for European listeners and 2) We can discuss the subject the day pirates have the same legal rights to broadcast. Your comments are irrelevant. See ya/SP

FREE RADIO TECHNIQUE

Torenvalk Technics
P.O. Box 94
7038 ZH ZEDDAM
THE NETHERLANDS

How to build a shortwave transmitter, part 1

In this and the forthcoming issues of Pirate Connection, a description will be given on how to build your own shortwave station!

The technique is generally tube-related and this should not give any serious problems since we are trying to give you clear diagrams and drawings to support the text.

A SW-station consists of mainly three parts:

1. The audio equipment
2. The transmitter
3. The aerial

First let's focus on part 2, the transmitter. Later we will give you more details on the aerial and the audio equipment.

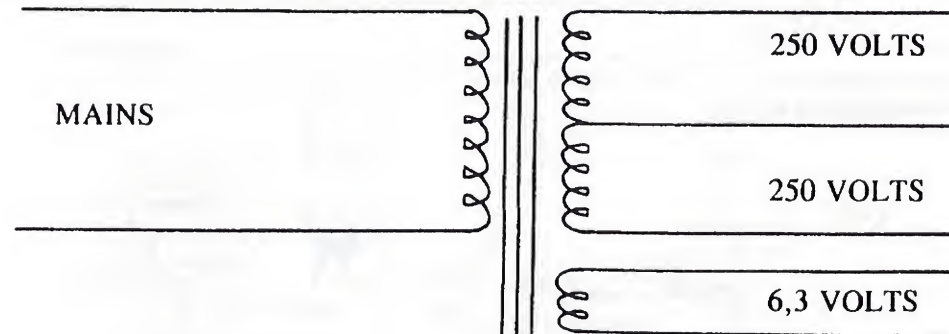
A transmitter may be separated into the following parts:

1. The power supply
2. The oscillator
3. The end-stage

The power supply

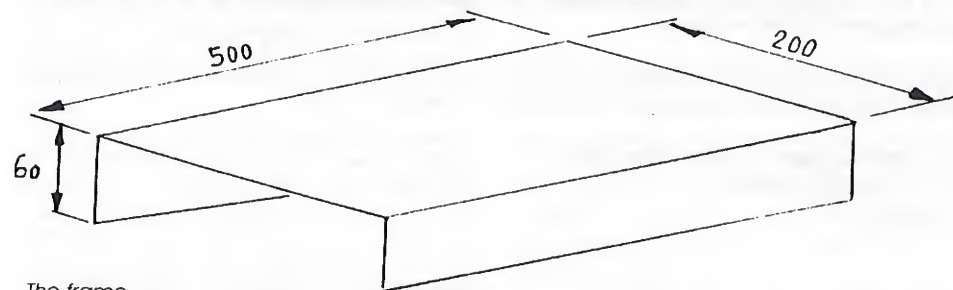
Let's start with the power supply. Since we will be using valves, two voltages are needed; 6.3 V for the filament and appr. 300 V for the plates of the oscillator valves and 1000 V for the end-stage. For the 6.3 V and the 300 V we will be using a transformer taken from an old valve-radio. These should now be too hard to get at any flea-market (if you have an old valve-receiver that still works satisfactory, don't disassemble it but get in contact with the author /Hans is a notorious collector of tube receivers - chief editor's note/).

Generally, a transformer from an old valve radio will give you the following voltages:



Sometimes an extra winding is put to the transformer that will give you 4 V, but this will not be used. In more modern type of valve radios, only one winding is on the transformer that gives 250 V. Remember to check the mains-connection carefully before disconnecting the transformer since they are often designed for various voltages (110/127/220/225 volts mains).

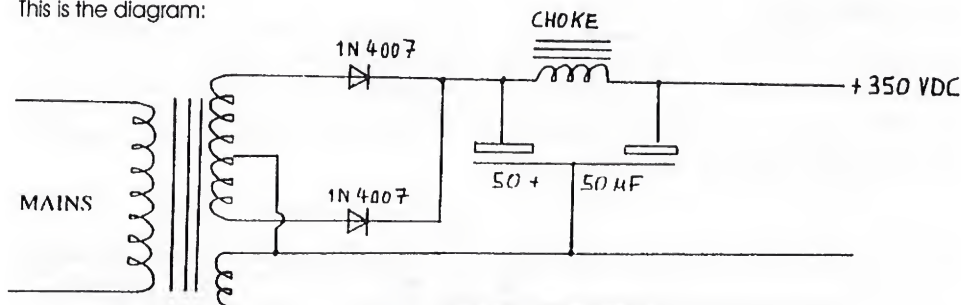
Before further use of the transformer, we must make a solid frame on which it can be mounted. Its dimensions should be at least 200×500×60 mm. See figure.



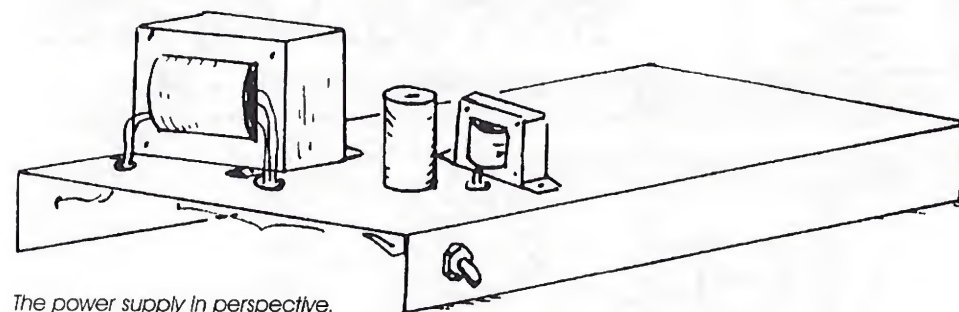
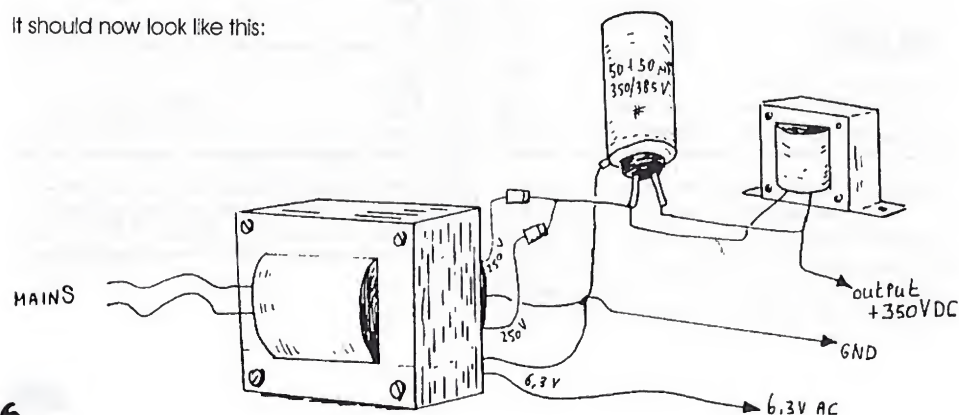
The frame.

The transformer can be mounted on the frame as shown; remember to install a main switch and a fuse on the front of the frame. This switch and fuse should be suitable for 250 V AC/2 A. From the 250 V AC of the transformer we will make 350 V DC with either 2 or 4 diodes depending on the voltages given. You need a capacitor of 2×50 uF/350 V and a filter-choke of 4-6 Henry/100 mA.

This is the diagram:

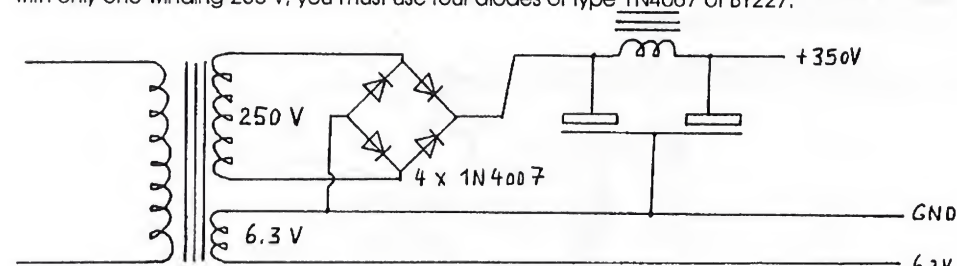


It should now look like this:



The power supply in perspective.

Remember that the elco must be fit to handle voltages up to 150%. Normally the elco can be disconnected from the valve radio together with the transformer. A filter choke may be a bit harder to get, you may use a resistor instead with 220 Ohm/10 W. In case of using a transformer with only one winding 250 V, you must use four diodes of type 1N4007 or BY227.



The power supply with the four diodes. Please pay attention to the polarity of the diodes and the elco!

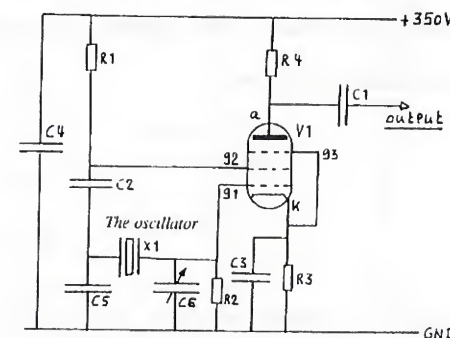
If all is properly mounted, connected and checked, you may plug in the mains and your power supply should give you appr. 300 V DC.

Now the first part of the transmitter is ready.

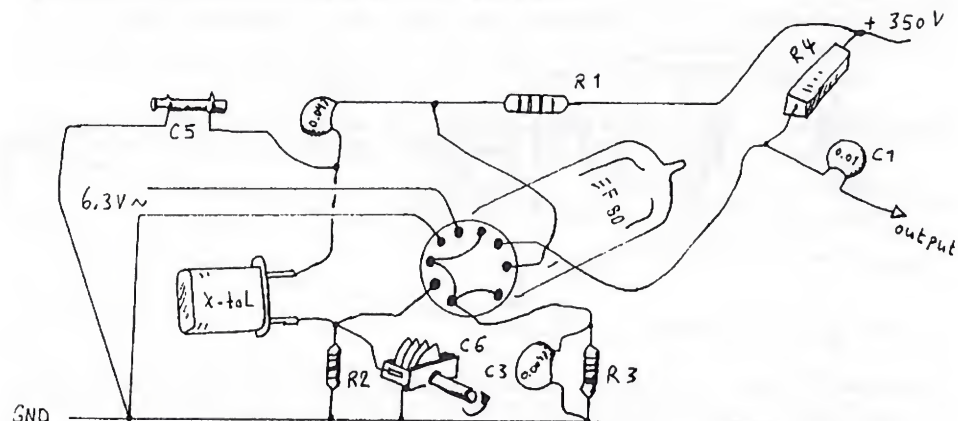
The oscillator

Most parts needed for making the oscillator can be obtained from an old valve radio as well. Here is the circuit diagram:

- V1 = EF80 with socket
- R1 = 47 kOhm 1 W
- R2 = 100 kOhm 0.5 W
- R3 = 220 Ohm 0.5 W
- R4 = 220 Ohm 0.5 W
- R5 = 6.8 kOhm 2 W
- C1-C4 = 4700 pF 400 V ceramic
- C5 = 47 pF 400 V ceramic
- X1 = Crystal with socket

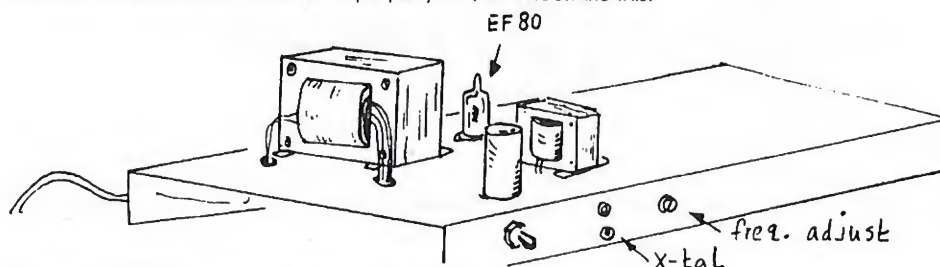


This is the bottom view of the valve and its connections:



Keep all connections as short as possible and mount the crystal socket and the adjustable capacitor on the front of the frame.

When the valve socket is mounted properly too, it will look like this:



The frame with the power supply and oscillator.

Now after switching on the mains, you must notice a carrier on your radio after the valve is heated up.

In the next issue of Pirate Connection, I will give you descriptions on the next stages of the transmitter.

If you run into any problems, don't hesitate to drop me a line at the address above.

Much success with your work!

2SL-COLLECTION

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SWEDEN
qsl@srs.pp.se

From this issue, I have decided to remove the Turtle-list, but, I will try to have the Black-list as updated as possible, so if there are any stations out there that never answers, give me a tip!

Mediumwave	Freq.	Reply	W.T.W	Contributor	Bribe
Caroline	1641	Cd, Lt, I	6	SPZ	SASE
Graaf van Lux.	1637	Ph, PC, Lt	2	MS	1\$
Korak Radio	1646	Stc, Lt, Ph, PC	5v	SPZ	2IRC
Marlo	1635	Cd, st	1	MS	1\$
Scotland Int.	1645	Cd, PC	2	MS	1\$
Studio 4	1648	Lt	1	MS	1\$
Torpedojager	1634	Cd, Lt, Ph	3	MS	1\$
Utopia	1636	Cd, I	16	SPZ	2IRC
Vrije Vogel	1645	Lt	2v	SPZ	SASE
Zwarte Spin	1639	DPRS card	3	MS	2\$

Shortwave	Freq.	Reply	W.T.W	Contributor	Bribe
Action	6200	Lt St	24	SPZ	1\$
Amazonia	6280	stc magazine	3	SPZ	2IRC
Blackbeard	6266	Lt, I	20	SPZ	phonel
Borderhunter	3927	Lt, PC	3	MS, JAL, SPZ	1\$
Caroline	6200 6207	Cd, Lt	28	SPZ	3IRC
Champions R	3925 6258	stc Lt	32	SPZ	2IRC
City	7486	Cd, I	3	JAL	1\$
Communication	6261	Cd Lt I	6	SPZ	2IRC
Coroner	6580	Cd I	6	SPZ	2IRC
CPBN	3910	Lt	104	SPZ	1\$
Driland	3922	Cd, Lt I	12	SPZ	2IRC
Free London	6400	stc poster	8	SPZ	2IRC
Good Music Radio	6220	pb	9	SPZ	2\$
Isabella	6235	Cd, St	7	MS	1\$
JR Reutlingen	3985	Lt, I	4	MS	2DM
Junifirst	3922,5	Lt	5	MS	2DM
KWFA	3985	Lt, I	14	MS	2DM
Nord	6212	Cd, I	8	SPZ	stamp
Pacman	3944	PC, Lt, I	7	MS	1\$
Pamela	7490	Cd, Lt	11	SPZ	2IRC
Pandora	6200	stc Lt St	4	SPZ	2IRC
Panther	6304	Cd, Lt, PC	3	MS	1\$
Powerstation	3955	Cd, I	4 days	MS	2DM
Speedwing Radio	3940	Stc's	3-16	JAL, SPZ	1\$
Starshine Radio	6250	photo-qsl, I	5	MS	1\$
Tonair	6200	Lt	2	MS	1\$
Torenvalk	6400	Cd Lt, dek	2	SPZ	-
UK Radio	6233	Cd I	6	SPZ	2\$
Zodiac	6280	Cd, Lt dek	3	SPZ	3IRC

Abbreviations: Cd:QSL-Card, Lt:Letter, PC:Postcard, I:Info, St:Sticker, Ph:Photo, Stc: Stencil, CD:Compact Disc, PPC:Preperd Post Card, Cs:Cassette, W.T.W: weeks to wait

Black-list
Radio Adelante
Free Radio Norway
Radio Psychodelica
Radio Paradise
Wave Radio Int'l
R.Starline
R.Reflex
R.Nooitgedacht

The only way to get OUT from the Black list, are by sending out reply's to alot of DX-ers. When I see the tendence, I'll remove the station.

Contributers	Sign	Points	Country
Patrik Willför	PW	106	Finland
Zdenek Elias	ZE	49	Czech Rep.
Andreas Johansson	AJS	35	Sweden
Martin Schöch	MS	31	Germany
Jonny Augustsson	JAL	29	Sweden
Kai Salve Salvesen	KSS	28	Norway
Stefan Printz	SPZ	26	Sweden
Göran Poulsen	GÖP	18	Sweden
Lars Andersson	LAY	15	Sweden
Robert Petrailis	RPK	08	Lithuania
Valentin Jershov	VJT	04	Estonia
Jan Törnblom	JTM	03	Sweden

Don't forget to include the frequency and IF you use abbreviations that is not explained here, please explain them! Until next time.....bye bye...73's / Jonny

Continued from page 12.

Loops, through a tuner, work on most frequencies above the fundamental and increase in gain as you increase frequency. Also, a big loop is a monster receiving antenna for SW DXing and is very quiet against man-made electrical noises. My loop is about 625 feet in a rough circular pattern (any shape will do). At 625' the fundamental frequency is about 1.660 kHz, so I can transmit from there on past 30 MHz or most frequencies with good gain.

As of this writing In April of '96, I've been involved with 15 different broadcasts on over 25 different frequencies ranging from a low of 1660 kHz up to 21.470 kHz. Additionally, I have issued over 250 QSL cards to DXers and FCC agents and occasionally reward deserving DX'ers with a special issue QSL's or other goodies of various kinds. Others have said it before and I boldly say it again,

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"DX'ing the pirates is just plain fun."

Radio Bob
RBCN
P.O. Box 17534
Atlanta, GA 30316
USA

QSLs are issues for reception reports only. Studio cassettes are available (from the address above) at \$3 per tape in the USA, \$5 per tape (foreign)."

Well, that was back in the spring of 1996. In early September, Radio Bob announced that he's ceasing all SW operations and the station is being shut down. The Atlanta drop remains open as of this writing.

I'd like to thank Radio Bob for taking the time to share his experiences with all of us, and hope that he will return to the airwaves again the future. After all, to borrow his quote "DX'ing the pirates is just plain fun!"

PC GOES INTERNET

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Today, a lot of information about Free Radio are available via the Internet, also, a lot of stations are contactable via e-mail addresses. In a series of articles, I will take a closer look on WEB-sites and other things out there concerning Free Radio. If you have any comments on the subject or the content, don't hesitate to send them to me. In this first article, I will introduce some tools that might be 'necessary' for the best use of the Internet, and also something about security. Let us start with the security.

E-mail addresses are popular, but not so much used by the listeners. There are, as I see it, three ways to get an e-mail address; via a anonymous sever like anon.penet.fi, get one yourself via a server and finally via someone with an own domain (like SRS). The one that are most dangerous, are the one set up by your own via a server. Those serving the Internet-server, has no obligation to observe silence if the PTT comes and ask with a court-decision in their hand. The same using your cellular phone! Using servers like anon.penet.fi are more secure. But there have been one trial were the operator had to give out a name from his list. So don't mix your radio-activity with any other illegal hobbies. Using a domain-operator is somewhere in between. Mostly it's up to the computer security at the domain-server. Just like anonymous servers, like anon.penet.fi, the messages are re-directed after reception. So have that in mind, when you wants to be there on the Internet.

Tools for the Internet



Netscape / Mosaic / Microsoft, three heavy names. Just have in mind that most WEB-pages are made for Netscape, and specially for Netscape 2.0. If you want to explore the Internet and also handle your mail, one of those three are perhaps the best single tool. If you don't want to handle your mail via your WEB-browser, Eudora or Pegasus are two strong names in the e-mail world. Eudora are perhaps the biggest and most easiest to use. Pegasus have some features that I would like to find in Eudora, but unfortunately I find Pegasus too complex to work with.

It's a matter of taste, but a good combination that I recommend are Netscape 3.0 and Eudora 1.5.4. Both are free. Another way to find programs via the Internet, are by using a FTP program. FTP stands for File Transfer Protocol. Netscape has a FTP interface, so that's no problem, but if you have a computer with little RAM, a FTP can be easier to use for downloading attractive files. One popular program here are CuteFTP. Very easy to use.

If you like to communicate via Internet, there are today two ways of doing that, via IRC or via Iphone. Internet Relay Chat is a group-meeting were you chat via your keyboard. There can be a lot of people that takes part in the discussion. Via Iphone you can actually talk to someone. But only two people can be connected at the same time. Also here are there a lot of meetings that you can participate in. The two biggest programs here are InternetPhone from Vocaltech and mIRC. Both should be available for Mac and PC. Those two programs are really easy to work with and easy to set-up. mIRC is a fully working Shareware program and the I-Phone can be tested for calls up to one minute (also Shareware).

Finally, if you want to download articles from alt.radio.pirate or alt.radio.free you need a program like Agent. This kind of letter exchange can be seen as a slower version of IRC. The benefits are that you can read and reply when you have the time for it. Unfortunately are the content in alt.radio.pirate mostly about FM10-transmitters, but some interesting debates sometimes occur.

Those programs mentioned here are available via Internet, you can always do a search via some of the search-tools, like Alta Vista, and then download them, via your WEB-browser or via your FTP.

In next issue of PC, we will start looking on web-sites, and also try to mention what kind of tools you should use to get the most out of the sites. So until next time, 73's!

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